IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

receiving electronic data representing a condensed version of a video program, said video program having a video component and a second information-bearing media component associated therewith, said electronic data representation including a representative frame from each segment of the video component of the video program and a portion of said second media component associated with said segment;

automatically transforming said electronic data representation into a hypertext format suitable for electronic searching and retrieval to form a hypertext pictorial transcript;

recording said hypertext pictorial transcript in an electronic medium~~, wherein said hypertext pictorial transcript~~; and

responding to a keyword search by a user, performed on said second information-bearing media component stored by said step of recording, where a pictorial transcript that is responsive to said keyword search is configured for presentation to said user in form of pages, at least some of which are interconnected by hypertext links.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said second media component is closed-caption text.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each of said pages includes at least one of said representative frames and said second information-bearing media component associated with said at least one representative frame.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein each of said pages includes not more than a preselected number of said representative frames and said second

information-bearing media component associated with the representative frames that are in said each of said pages.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said plurality of hypertext pages are presented to said user in a scheme selected from a plurality of schemes by said user.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7 wherein one of said schemes configures said pictorial representation to present to said user all of said representative frames of said hypertext pictorial transcript.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein another of said schemes configures said pictorial representation to present to said user a subset of said representative frames, selected by at least one criterion, to reduce retrieval time of said hypertext pictorial transcript for presentation to said user.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said criterion removes substantially redundant representative frames.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of replacing said substantially redundant frames with hypertext anchors.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said criterion removes alternating ones of sequentially occurring representative frames.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said criterion removes representative frames below a prescribed image size.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said criterion removes representative frames above a prescribed image size.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said criterion removes representative frames that differ from other representative frames by less than a prescribed amount.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said criterion removes representative frames taken from segments below a threshold length.

17. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said criterion removes representative frames taken from advertisements.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said hypertext pictorial transcript has a user customizable page layout.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of generating and recording an index page to the hypertext pictorial transcript.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said index page includes links to individual pages of the hypertext pictorial transcript.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein said index page includes hypertext index terms indexed to pages of the hypertext pictorial transcript.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting said hypertext pictorial transcript over a communications network.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein said network is the World Wide Web.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 1 wherein said hypertext pages are divided based on topic segmentation.

27. (Currently Amended)) The method of claim ~~25~~ 1 wherein said hypertext pages are divided based on a change in closed-caption format.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Canceled).